

# Helena JSEC Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2009

## Members Present:

Carolyn DeYoung	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Gary Willis	Shodair
Robert Ward	Enterprise Rent-a-Car
Alan Thompson	UM-Helena College of Technology
Cathy Wood	Student Assistance Foundation
Kelly McArdle	American Federal Savings Bank
Darlene Chamberlin	Helena High School
Deena Korting	A2Z Personnel Helena
Anna Kazmierowski	A2Z Personnel Helena
Kate Menzia	Center for Mental Health
Kevin Christie	Blue Cross Blue Shield
Charles Geary	Department of Corrections
Sandy Hamlin	Helena Job Service Workforce Center
Dave Laber	Helena Job Service Workforce Center
Deb Buxbaum	Helena Job Service Workforce Center

## Guests:

Karen Murphy - Speaker	Helena Chamber of Commerce
Catie Poteet	Independent Record
Tom Zebrun-Gero	Independent Record
Pam	Center 4 Mental Health

**Introductions:** Carolyn asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

**Guest Speaker:** Karen Murphy, Marketing Director for the Helena Chamber of Commerce spoke to us about all of the things that the Chamber does as an advocacy agency. At this time, they have 850 businesses as members and are close to being the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest chamber in the State of Montana. Currently they have 7 employees, 3 full time and 4 part time. So obviously, there are a lot of volunteer hours that make the Chamber work

Some of the services they offer are as follows: The Visitors Center and Chamber offices, newsletter, relocation and vacation packets, website (80-90,000 hits per month), Business After Hours, 90 second Chamber Spotlight on TV, group health insurance (18,000 people enrolled to date), ABC Clinic, customer service training, speakers, tournaments, Commissioner and Mayor luncheons, free Helena area maps, a full-time legislative lobbyist and adopt a legislature program, and their annual banquet to name a few. They also market Helena across the US and Canada. For more information on any of these programs, contact the Helena Chamber of Commerce at 406-442-4120 or [www.helenachamber.com](http://www.helenachamber.com)

**Minutes:** Minutes for December 2008 were tabled until February's meeting.

**Treasurer Report:** Robert reported that the Mike Bullock Scholarship fund still has \$271.86, and the JSEC checking account is now at \$6,126.23. Sandy asked for a motion to approve paying for Dave's National SHRM Membership again. Motion passed

**Fundraising Report:** Dave reported that for 2008 Jim Nys turned out to be our main source of income, mainly co-sponsoring the HR Bootcamps. Last year the committee made approximately \$1,500.00. This year however, Jim has changed the way he is doing his workshops by offering Webinars. Dave said he would explore the possibility of putting on the Webinars in our office and charging a small fee, but he is not sure how popular that's going to be. Jim will likely continue to do some full-day workshops, and we will be able to split the profits on those. We do hope to recognize some profit from the Convention. We get 25% of the raffle, 50% of the 50/50 sales, and 50% from the vendors. Carolyn and Gary both encouraged us to really push the 50/50 because we can make some good money on that.

**Manager's Report:** See Attached. Additionally, in response to questions, Deb added the following: Our region, which includes Helena, Bozeman, Dillon, Butte and Anaconda, has the lowest unemployment in the State right now. Rapid Response is a program that meets with employees who have been laid off to assist them with such things as how to apply for unemployment, CHIP, financial planning, and mental health. Deb also mentioned that The University of Montana- Helena College of Technology is working with dislocated workers to reduce tuition and try to ease the financial burden for folks trying to get back into school.

**Conference Update:** The scholarships for the Conference have an extended due date of January 31, 2009. Members should submit their names to Sandy if they are interested in a scholarship. To nominate the name of a business, including your own, please send those names to Gary.

The possibility is good that the 'Healthy Humorist', Brad Nieder, will be our entertainment after the banquet. Chris is waiting for the speaker contracts to be signed; however, we expect by next month that we should have that information.

Discussion ensued about the appetizer menu for the Early Bird event. Sandy said the suggested quantity was based on last year's count, and we needed to make sure the price was in the range already approved. Green Meadow Country Club will let us adjust the numbers a little if needed as we get closer. A decision was made on what to serve, and Sandy will let Chris know so that she can meet with Becky at the Country Club to get a contract in place.

Chris wasn't sure if using the trolley to transport people to the Early Bird would be feasible since they would be staying in several different motels. Gary said it would be nice, but because it has never been done before, people understand that they will be driving.

Sandy suggested that we start thinking about what we want to put into goodie bags so we can start gathering the items. There were about 200 attendees last year, so that is what we are basing our needs on for this year.

The cost for the vendor tables has not been set yet, but if any of our JSEC Members are interested in reserving a table, contact Sandy or Dave so they can pass the information on to Chris.

**Career Fair Update:** Deb, Carol, and Rosie met with Catie Poteet from the IR and discussed where the Career Fair has gone and what they would like it to look like in the future. The date for

this year's Fair has been set for April 1. Catie said they are going to stick with the 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. times for this year. Catie also said they are going to try to make it a more public event, pushing promotion to the Colleges and High Schools as well as the general public. They will be offering door prizes. Paper and on-line registration will again be available this year. Catie assured us that everything would be working great this year, and it would be a more inclusive event. Job Service will be doing resume critiques.

**Hidden Agenda:** Cathy is now a part of the Helena SHRM Board. She said that the SHRM Board would like to rekindle their relationship with the Helena JSEC. Anna (who is also on the SHRM Board) added that they would like to improve their relationship with JSEC and find additional ways to work together. Carolyn and Dave have been past SHRM Board members, and thought that the past partnership was basically employer training sessions. Cathy, Anna and Dave will meet in a small group to brainstorm ways that JSEC and SHRM can begin working together again. If anyone else would like to serve on that committee, just contact one of the above. Anna also said that SHRM is working on a diversity award for local employers. If anyone has ideas, contact Anna.

The 501 (c3) (C6) has been on the back burner. Kalispell JSEC just completed theirs this last year. Dave has asked them for copies of everything they did so that we can use it to start our process.

Dave handed out copies of the new FMLA poster and an information packet. In January 09 the law was given new teeth and the material has been updated. If anyone wants more packets, please contact Dave or Sandy.

**Next Meeting:**

- February 18, 2009
- Wednesday
- 3:30 p.m.
- Helena Job Service
- Room 1
- Treats – Larry Westfall